

Cotswold Archaeology

Temple Cowley Swimming Pool Temple Road, Temple Cowley Oxfordshire Archaeological Evaluation



for CgMs Consulting Limited

> CA Project: 5327 CA Report: 16687

> > November 2016



Andover Cirencester Exeter Milton Keynes

Temple Cowley Swimming Pool Temple Road, Temple Cowley Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 5327 CA Report: 16687



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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Temple Cowley Swimming Pool
Location:	Temple Road, Temple Cowley, Oxfordshire, OX4 2HA
NGR:	SP 54415 04374
Туре:	Evaluation
Date:	8th-15th November 2016
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Oxfordshire Museums Service
Accession Number:	OXCMS:2016.188
Site Code:	SPTC 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2016 at the site of the former Temple Cowley Swimming Pool, Temple Cowley, Oxfordshire, OX4 2HA. Four trenches were excavated.

Limited evidence of the Roman and post medieval land use of the site in the form of hedgerow and boundary ditches was revealed, along with extensive evidence for modern disturbance associated with the construction of the swimming pool and nearby structures.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CgMs Consulting Limited at Temple Cowley Swimming Pool, Temple Cowley, Oxfordshire (centred on NGR: SP 54415 04374; Figure 1). The evaluation was undertaken as part of a planning application, in order to inform the archaeological advisor to Oxford City Council as to the likely archaeological potential of the Site. The fieldwork was informed by the Heritage Assessment (John Moore Heritage Services 2014).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief for archaeological evaluation prepared by David Radford, the Archaeologist for Oxford City Council (OCC) and a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by David Radford. The fieldwork followed *Standards and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). It was monitored by David Radford, including site visits on the 9th and 15th November 2016.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area measures approximately 0.5ha, and comprises remnant structures associated with the former Temple Cowley Swimming Pool. The south-eastern part of the Site is occupied by a car park. The Site is bounded by Temple Road and Temple Cowley Library from the south east, residential property from the south west, sports grounds of the Saint Christopher School from the north west, and an unnamed road with a limestone walled enclosure from the north east. The Site lies at approximately 73m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as sandstone of the Beckley Sand Member; sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 156 to 161 million years ago in the Jurassic Period in an environment dominated by shallow seas. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS Online, 2016).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological background for the site has been informed by the Heritage Statement prepared by John Moore Heritage Services (JMHS, 2014).

Prehistoric

2.2 There are no previously known archaeological remains within the Site and no archaeological assets and finds pre-dating the Iron Age are known in its vicinity (JHMS, 2014).

Iron Age

2.2 An Iron Age coin, with a plain obverse side and a horse with wheel below on the other, has been recovered from the Cowley 'area'. A quarry of an Iron Age date is associated with Barracks Lane to the north of the Site (JMHS, 2014).

Roman

2.3 A Roman pottery kiln and occupation site of the 1st to 4th century has been recorded in Town's Road and Saint Luke's Road to the south west of the site. It was identified in 1934, with excavations being undertaken in 1939-40, 1972 and 1983. Roman sherds of the 3rd-4th century were found in a pit at the Police Station on Cowley Road. At 77 Temple Cowley Road a Roman kiln was uncovered. A Roman inhumation was recovered from Cowley Barrack's Quarry in Quarry Lane (JMHS, 2014).

Early medieval

2.4 A Weye is referred to in an Anglo-Saxon charter for Cowley, indicating that a drove road or ridgeway went through the area. This may have run from Oxford to Stokenchurch. Early medieval limestone quarrying has been identified in Barracks Lane. The site of a medieval Templar Preceptory was located at Temple Cowley, probably in the roughly quadrilateral shape between the roads: Temple Road, Cowley Road/Oxford Road, Salegate Lane and Hollow Way (JMHS, 2014).

Medieval

2.5 Medieval occupation layers of the 11th-12th century and a pit, a part of an enclosure, and the corner of a building are all associated with the Knights Templars' Preceptory. Excavations on the site of Temple Cowley Manor House, listed as the Nuffield Press, recovered pottery of the 11th century, but could only place the first phase of construction to the 13th century. This included a number of pits (located near the later manor house), an east west orientated building, a shallow linear, a curved ditch or robber trench, and part of a masonry wall of building D (Muir et al., 1999). It is highly likely, in the light of the Little Witham excavations on a Templar Preceptory in Lincolnshire, that there are components that could survive in some form from this period above ground. It is possible that a surviving limestone wall to

the east of Temple Road, and the associated buildings may be a reworking of the preceptory boundary wall and building. The name Salegate Lane indicates the location of a probable gated entrance to the complex (JMHS, 2014).

2.6 Medieval features were identified at Saint Christopher's School immediately north of the Site, which included a 12th century ditch. Medieval pits were identified at the Cowley Road Police Station. Further medieval pits of an 11th to 14th century date were uncovered at 77 Temple Cowley Road (JMHS, 2014).

Post-medieval

2.7 The demolished Temple Cowley Manor was a 17th century structure with 18th century alterations. A single surviving wall was documented in 1997 before demolition (Muir, Newell et al. 1999, 297-300). There is a post-medieval cottage at 77 Temple Cowley Road. In Beauchamp Lane there is a listed 17th century cottage with later reworking. A further 17th century listed cottage is located at 48 Temple Road (JMHS, 2014).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable Oxford City Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).
- 3.2 Specific objectives of the evaluation were designed to:
 - establish whether significant Roman remains are present given the proximity of Roman find spots and kiln site; and
 - establish the character and extent of any medieval or post-medieval remains given the proximity of recorded medieval walls that may be related to a 12th-13th century Templar Preceptory and later activity (including a pond marked on historic maps).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of four trenches of varying lengths, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figure 2). With the approval of David Radford the final location of the trenches was modified from the original plan, and trenches 1, 2, and 3 were shortened in order to avoid obstructions encountered on site. Trenches were set out to OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 Hardstanding within the footprint of trenches was removed using a machinemounted concrete breaker and all trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeo-environmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. No deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement with the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museums Service under accession number OXCMS:2016.188, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGURE 2-4)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B.
- 5.2 A total of four trenches were excavated which revealed limited evidence of the medieval/post-medieval land use across the site and extensive modern disturbance

likely associated with the construction of the swimming pool and surrounding structures.

5.3 The final dimensions of the trenches were: **Trench 1** 5.5 x 2.5m, **Trench 2** 17 x 2.15m, **Trench 3** 16 x 2m and **Trench 4** 20.6 x 2.1m.

Trench 1 (Figures 2, 3 & 4)

5.4 Below modern layers of tarmac **100** and concrete **101**, the natural mid-yellow/brown clay/sand substrate **102**, was encountered at a depth of 0.27m. Into **102** was cut ditch **103** with rounded and concave sides and base. It contained a single mottled secondary fill **104** of mid-grey/brown sand/silt and occasional charcoal flecks. From the nature of **104** and the finds it contained, which included post medieval CBM and industrial waste, it seems likely that the ditch represents the line of a hedgerow of post-medieval date.

Trench 2 (Figure 2)

5.5 **Trench 2** was machined to a depth of 1.38m where the yellow/brown sand/clay natural substrate **203** was encountered below made ground layers **200** and **201**, and a clearly defined mid-brown silty clay garden soil **202**. Garden soil, **202**, contained post-medieval pottery, china and CBM fragments. Variation in the depth of **203** suggests that it had been significantly truncated in some areas in the post-medieval period. A modern foundation cut, **204**, for a concrete foundation was also encountered. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 3 (Figure 2)

5.6 The natural substrate of orangey brown sandy clay was encountered at a depth of 1.4m below modern layers **300** and **301**. A post-medieval dark grey/brown garden soil **302** was encountered at a depth of 0.95m. A modern foundation cut, **303**, and modern disturbance were noted towards the northern end of the trench. No archaeological features were encountered.

Trench 4 (Figures 2, 3 & 4)

5.7 **Trench 4** was machined to a depth of 0.76m where the brown/yellow sand/clay natural substrate **403** was encountered below modern made ground, layers **400**, **401** and **402**. Ditch **406** was located in the northern half of the trench. It had slightly

concave sides and a flat base, and contained two fills **407** and **412**.Fill **412** was a primary fill of light greyish brown sandy silt formed through the initial erosion of the ditch sides and **407** was a grey/brown sandy/clay secondary fill. Fill **407** contained a small number of unabraded sherds of Roman pottery dated from the 1st to 2nd centuries AD. A modern drainage cut, **404**, was identified spanning much of the trench in an approximately north west-south east alignment and cut through **406**. Additional areas of modern disturbance (**408**) and (**410**) were also identified.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual evidence from evaluation was recovered from two ditch fills **104** and **407**. The recovered material dates to the Roman period and post-medieval periods. Quantities of the artefact types recorded are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Pottery fabric codes are equated to the Oxfordshire type series (summarised in Booth 2011, 366–7).

Pottery: Roman

6.2 Three unfeatured body sherds of Roman pottery (14g) were recovered from fill **407** of ditch **406**, in an unabraded condition. All present in a grog-tempered fabric (E80) and dating from the 1st to 2nd centuries AD is most likely.

Ceramic building material

6.3 Fill **104** of ditch **103** produced three heavily abraded, unclassifiable fragments (7g) of ceramic building material of probable post-medieval date.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The evaluation revealed limited evidence of Roman and post-medieval land use of the Site in the form of possible hedgerows/field boundary ditches **103** and **406**. This is in keeping with cartographic evidence which shows much of the site and the surrounding area divided into small parcels of land in the post-medieval period, although no direct matches could be identified.
- 7.2 The unabraded nature of Roman pottery sherds within fill 407 of ditch 406 suggests that they are not residual, and date the use of the ditch to the 1st-2nd centuries AD. The presence of a ditch of this date corresponds with Roman remains known near the Site.

- 7.3 No remains associated with the 12th-13th century Templar Preceptory were encountered.
- 7.4 Extensive evidence of modern development and disturbance was revealed across the Site. This is likely to be associated with the 20th-century construction of the swimming pool and surrounding buildings, and its redevelopment in the 1980s.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Olly Good, assisted by Tim Street, Nida Bhunnoo and Keighley Wasenczuk. The report was written by Sam Wilson. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville and the illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled by Olly Good, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Greatorex.

9. **REFERENCES**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <u>http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology viewer google/googleviewer.html</u> Accessed 24 November 2016

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot- date
1	100	Layer		Made ground	Modern tarmac	>5.5	>2.5	0-0.04	
1	101	Layer		Made ground	Modern concrete	>5.5	>2.5	0.04-0.27	
1	102	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown clayey sand	>5.5	>2.5	0.27+	
1	103	Cut		Ditch	Linear cut of ditch with rounded concave sides and base	>2.5	1.4	0.3	PMED
1	104	Fill	103	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown sandy silt secondary fill of ditch	>2.5	1.4	0.3	PMED
2	200	Layer		Made ground	Yellow sandy gravel	>17	>2.15	0-0.3	
2	201	Layer		Made ground	Dark greyish brown silty clay with building rubble	>17	>2.15	0.3-0.58	
2	202	Layer		Garden soil	Mid brown silty clay	>17	>2.15	0.58-1.38	
2	203	Layer		Natural	Yellowish brown sandy clay	>17	>2.15	1.38+	
2	204	Cut		Foundation cut	Modern foundation cut	>2.15	0.7	0.3-0.95+	Modern
2	205	Fill	204	Foundation	Modern concrete foundation	>2.15	0.7	0.3-0.95+	Modern
3	300	Layer		Made ground	Modern concrete and building debris	>16	>2	0-0.4	
3	301	Layer		Garden soil	Mid brownish grey clayey silt	>16	>2	0.4-0.95	
3	302	Layer		Garden soil	Dark greyish brown clayey silt	>16	>2	0.95-1.4	
3	303	Cut		Foundation cut	Modern foundation cut	>1.8	1.5	0.2-0.98	Modern
3	304	Fill	303	Foundation	Fill of modern foundation cut	>1.8	1.5	0.2-0.98	Modern
3	305	Depos		Disturbance	Modern disturbance	>6	>2	0.2-1.05+	Modern
4	400	Layer		Made ground	Modern paved brick	>20.6	>2.1	0-0.06	
4	401	Layer		Made ground	Yellow sand	>20.6	>2.1	0.06-0.36	
4	402	Layer		Made ground	Modern levelling layer	>20.6	>2.1	0.36-0.56	
4	403	Layer		Natural	Brownish yellow sandy clay	>20.6	>2.1	0.56+	
4	404	Cut		Drainage cut	Modern drainage cut	>13	0.5	-	Modern
4	405	Fill	404	Drainage cut	Modern fill of drainage cut	>13	0.5	-	Modern
4	406	Cut		Ditch	Linear cut of ditch with concave sides and flat base	>2.1	1.48	0.6	C1-C2
4	407	Fill	406	Secondary fill	Greyish brown sandy clay secondary fill of ditch	>2	1.48	0.51	C1-C2
4	408	Cut		Disturbance	Cut of modern disturbance	>1.2	>0.5	-	Modern
4	409	Fill	408	Disturbance	Modern disturbance	>1.2	>0.5	-	Modern
4	410	Cut		Disturbance	Cut of modern disturbance	>0.4	>0.7	-	Modern
4	411	Fill	410	Disturbance	Modern disturbance	>0.4	>0.7	-	Modern
4	412	Fill		Primary fill	Light greyish brown sandy silt primary fill of ditch	>2	0.57	0.22	C1-C2*

*Contained no finds but dated stratigraphically

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
104	Ceramic building material Industrial waste	Fragment		3	7	-
407	Roman pottery	Grog-tempered fabric	E80	3	14	C1-C2

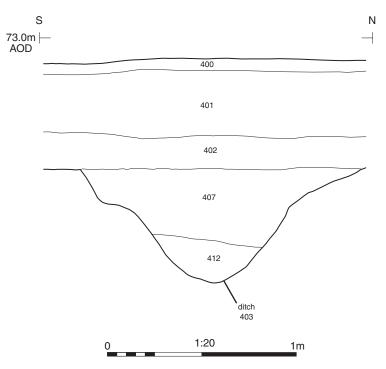
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

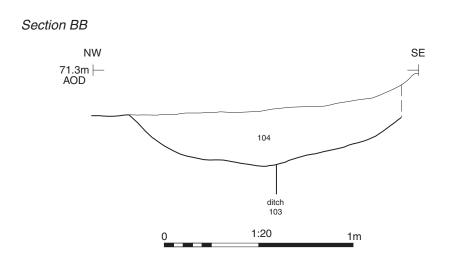
Project Name	Temple Cowley Swimming Pool, Ter Oxfordshire	Temple Cowley Swimming Pool, Temple Road, Temple Cowley, Oxfordshire				
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was Archaeology in November 2016 at th	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2016 at the site of the former Temple Cowley Swimming Pool, Temple Cowley, Oxfordshire, OX4 2HA.				
	Limited evidence of Roman and post- was revealed. It took the form of hed The evaluation produced extensi disturbance associated with the const and nearby structures.	gerow and boundary ditches. ve evidence for modern				
Project dates	7th November 2016					
Project type	Archaeological Evaluation					
Previous work	Heritage Assessment, John Moore He	ritage Services, 2014				
Future work	Unknown					
PROJECT LOCATION						
Site Location		Temple Cowley Swimming Pool, Temple Cowley, Oxfordshire				
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.5ha					
Site co-ordinates	SP 54415 04374	SP 54415 04374				
PROJECT CREATORS						
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Brief originator	Oxfordshire City Council					
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Manager	Richard Greatorex					
Project Supervisor	Oliver Good					
MONUMENT TYPE	None					
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None					
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archiv (museum/Accession no.)	e Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)				
Physical	Oxfordshire Museums Service	CBM, Pottery, Anima Bone				
Paper	Oxfordshire Museums Service Context sheets, trench sheets, drawings					
Digital	Oxfordshire Museums Service	Digital photos				
BIBLIOGRAPHY						
CA (Cotswold Archaoology) 2016 Ter	nple Cowley Swimming Pool, Temple Cowley	Oxfordshire: Archaeologica				













Ditch 406, east facing section (1m scale)



Ditch 103, south-west facing section (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE Temple Cowley, Swimming Pool Temple Cowley, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE Sections and photographs

DRAWN BY EE CHECKED BY DJB APPROVED BY RG

 PROJECT NO.
 5327

 DATE
 29/11/2016

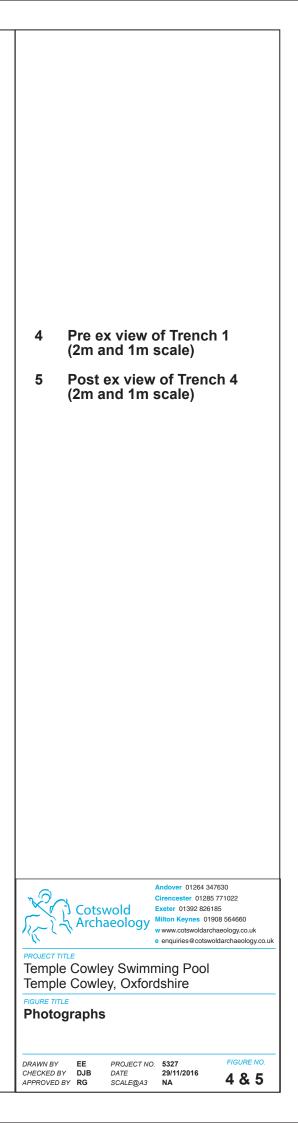
 SCALE@A3
 1:20

FIGURE NO.

3









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